

FLD
775

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	1. Medical Situation in Bulgaria 2. Miscellaneous Military Information	DATE DISTR.	4 September 1953
25X1 DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	NO. OF PAGES	2 25X1A
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/>
		REFERENCES	<input type="text"/>

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

SOURCE:

Medical Situation in Bulgaria

1. The condition of hospitals in Bulgaria has deteriorated in the past few years. All hospitals are under the control of the Communist Party of Bulgaria and management is in the hands of the State. Party members receive favored treatment in the hospitals.
2. Hospitals, sanatoriums, and other medical institutions are scattered throughout the country, although the majority are concentrated in the large cities. Most of the time instruments required for operations are not on hand, and the methods employed are consequently very primitive. Small provincial towns and remote villages lack doctors, and there are not enough mobile medical units to meet the needs. In certain hospitals in Sofia, some of the personnel are Soviets; these are usually specialists and are assigned to directing research laboratories. Food in the hospitals is inadequate, and as a result, it is not always possible to observe diet regulations. Medicines are not always administered according to the diagnosis because the special medicines required for various treatments are not available.
3. The doctors use makeshift means of transportation; for urgent calls, they are often obliged to apply to the Party for vehicles. Besides being underpaid, most doctors find their hours are absorbed by work for the Party. As a consequence, private practice is almost nonexistent. Doctors are almost all non-Communist, and the Party keeps them under close observation. Young doctors, educated according to the new Communist methods, are mediocre in their profession. Many doctors, especially the young ones, specialize at Soviet universities.
4. From a health point of view, the situation is rather alarming. There is serious concern over the number of new tuberculosis cases and other infectious diseases brought about by malnutrition, excessive work, precarious hygienic conditions, and improper medical care. Hospitals are crowded with tuberculosis victims and patients who have rheumatic fever, malaria, cancer, and other diseases resulting from organic

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	Ev	X	NAVY	Ev	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
-------	---	------	----	---	------	----	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

-2-

deterioration. Statistics indicate that 30 percent of the population is "affected by" tuberculosis, particularly the age group between 9 and 25. Rickets is very common among young children and babies. Another very common and pernicious disease is a sort of anemia which affects young women in particular.

5. Drugs and medicines are imported mostly from the USSR and Hungary, but the supply is insufficient. Very few medicines are produced in Bulgaria; all laboratories in the country are concentrated in Sofia and other large cities.
6. There are few drugs and special medicines in the country. Hospitals cannot carry a supply sufficient to meet requirements. One of the most needed drugs, streptomycin, is lacking, as is Remipon. The USSR supplies penicillin, but the Soviet product is so inferior to the American product that doctors hesitate to use it.
7. One hospital in Sofia, the former Jewish Hospital, has modern operating rooms and X-ray apparatus. There is also a good team of specialists on duty at the hospital. The hospital has been requisitioned by the Party for the exclusive use of Party hierarchy and members.

Military Information

8. The gas mask most commonly found in the Bulgarian Army is a Soviet type of Soviet manufacture, although there are some models of Hungarian and Czech manufacture. Gas masks are not issued to all troops but only to selected units (type not specified). It appears that only certain key civilians who either have special duties in the Bulgarian Communist Party or work in factories are issued masks.
9. The uniform worn by Bulgarian Air Corps flying personnel, such as pilots, navigators, mechanics, and gunners is light blue. It consists of a jacket and trousers, blue shirt, and grey tie. The cap is ornamented with a star and also has a gold embroidery emblem bearing the design of a propeller flanked by wings. The sleeve of the jacket bears a badge in the shape of a silver wing. The color and cut of uniforms issued to land-based personnel, such as communications and administrative personnel at the airfields, is different from that of flying personnel.
10. A submarine communications cable starts from a cabin near Burgas and runs on the sea bottom for about 20 miles in a northeasterly direction at 45 degrees, then turns north at 0 degrees and terminates at a point north of the port of Odessa. Another submarine cable is believed to run from the port of Varna, extending 25 miles in an easterly direction at 90 degrees and then northeast at 45 degrees as far as a place near Cape Tarkhan. Communications through these cables appear to function regularly. The cable between Varna and the Crimean peninsula is believed to serve military purposes.
11. The SS KHRISTO SMIRNENSKI, Bulgarian registry, which is currently undergoing repairs in the San Rocco Shipyards in Muggia, will remain in Muggia until the latter part of October 1953. The delay in terminating the repairs is because additional work, costing about \$120,000, must be done. Seventeen of the crew members are being returned to Bulgaria until the work on the vessel has been completed. This has been described as a move "to economize and safeguard morale."

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY